MC Step-up Owners Manual

Introduction

Congratulations and thank you for purchasing the Music First Audio Moving Coil Step up unit.

This unit steps up the level of a moving coil cartridge by a selectable ratio for connection to a phono stage. This level increase is obtained via two large, very high quality transformers.

Selectable loading is also possible via a rotary switch on the front panel helping to tailor the sound of the cartridge.

Connection

1. The rear panel houses all input and output connections. The input is situated to the right and the output to the left.

2. Connect the input from your Tone arm to the input RCA jack pair.

3. Connect the ground from your Tone arm to ground post on Step-up case.

4. Connect output cable (RCA to RCA) from the Step-up output RCA Jack pair to Moving Magnet Phonostage inputs using a short, low capacitance cable.

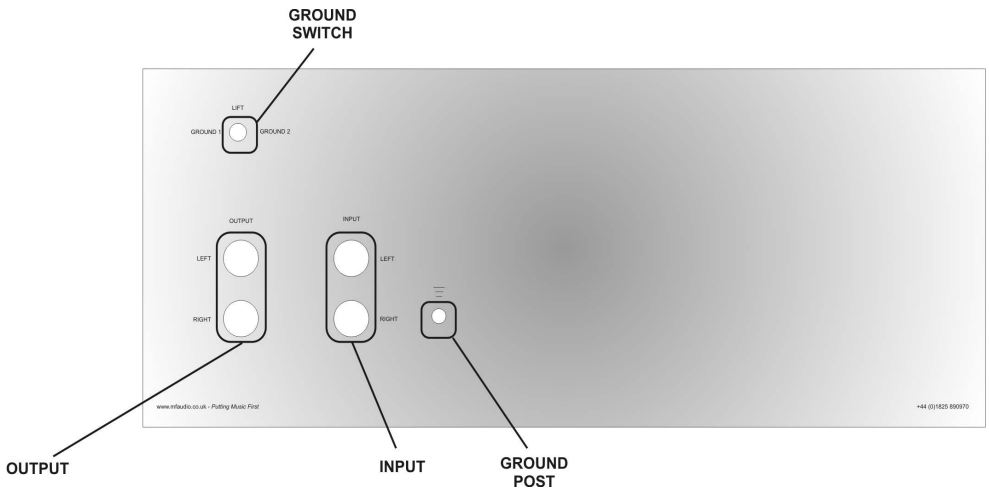
5. Connect a ground cable from the ground post on the Step-up to the ground post on your Phonostage.

6. Set the ratio on the Step-up initially to 1:5 and load to O/C.

7. Turn on system and find ground-switch position resulting in lowest noise.

8. Play a record, setting the volume on the (pre)amplifier low to verify function.

9. Select the Step-up ratio and load for best sound with the specific cartridge.



Burn in

To obtain the very best results from the MC Step-up a period of “burn in” is necessary. Simply put, this means you will find the sound of the unit improving over the first 100 hours or so of use. If possible, we recommend the following procedure:

- Connect a line level source (CD player, tuner etc.) to the **OUTPUT** of the MC Step-up.
- Connect the **INPUT** of the MC Step-up to an amplifier on a line level input.
- Set the ratio to 1:5
- Play music through the MC Step-up for 100 hours (using the amplifiers volume control to set level)

NOTE: Extreme care should be taken, DO NOT CONNECT the source to the INPUT of the MC Step-up and the amplifier to the OUTPUT. THIS WILL CAUSE SERIOUS DAMAGE.

If you need further help or advice you can e-mail us at: **info@mfaudio.co.uk**

Maintenance

The unit should be cleaned with a soft dry cloth. **NEVER** use abrasive cloths or cleaning solution. For stubborn stains, slightly dampen the cloth with water.

Contacts and connecters can be cleaned with proprietary switch cleaners (Servisol etc.) although the use of switch lubricants is not recommended.

Specification

Inputs	Stereo unbalanced
Outputs	Stereo unbalanced
Controls	Ratio (3 position rotary switch) Load (6 position rotary switch) Grounding (3 position toggle switch)

WARNING

- In no event shall the manufacturer be liable for any damage, direct, indirect or consequential of any type or any expenses or losses resulting from the use of this product.
- Contains no user serviceable parts, refer servicing to qualified personnel only.
- Do not expose the unit to moisture, excessive heat or cold.
- The contents of this manual are correct at the time of going to press.
- The manufacturer reserves the right to change the specification and features without prior notice.

Addendum

The loading values of the MC Step up front panel refer to resistors on the on the transformer secondary in order to give the maximum flexibility. This means they are effected by the selected ratio and by the Phonostage's input impedance.

This is a table of loading values (in ohms) that a phono cartridge sees when selecting various dummy load and transformer winding ratio combinations.

	1:5	1:10	1:20
O/C	1880	470	117
80K	1180	295	73
40k	870	210	52
30k	733	183	45
20k	561	140	35
10k	330	82	20

(Note: O/C is open circuit. The cartridge will see the transformer’s load divided by the transformer's ratio squared (i.e. in the 1:10 ratio the cart will see the input impedance of the phono stage (often 47k) divided by 100 (10 squared) giving a load to the cartridge in this example of 470ohms.)

It's possible for the MC Step up to be placed wherever you wish but we'd always recommend the shortest possible signal path and use of shielded cables.